United Nations S/PV.6465

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6465th meeting

Wednesday, 5 January 2011, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Edokpa
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)

Report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process (S/2010/658)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Expression of welcome to new members and of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council this year, I should like to extend my very warm wishes for a fruitful new year to all members of the Security Council, the United Nations and the Secretariat.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members: Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa. We look forward with confidence to their participation in the work of the Council. Their experience and wisdom will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's enormous responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Council's deep gratitude to the outgoing members — Austria, Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Uganda — for their important contributions to the work of the Council during their term in 2009 and 2010.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: I should also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Ms. Susan Rice, Permanent Representative of the United States of America, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2010. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Rice and her team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)

Report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process (S/2010/658)

The President: I have received a letter from the representative of Nepal, in which he requests to participate in this meeting. I propose to invite that representative to participate in this meeting, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Security Council, I should like to extend an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Karin Landgren, Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal.

It is so decided.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2010/658, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process. Members of the Council also have before them copies of a letter dated 5 January 2011 from the Secretary-General, which will be issued as document S/2011/1.

I now give the floor to Ms. Landgren.

Ms. Landgren: The Council has before it the Secretary-General's sixteenth and final report on Nepal's request for support to its peace process (S/2010/658). Since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General of 2 September (S/2010/453) and my briefing on 7 September (see S/PV.6377), the Council has also heard two oral reports on this issue by Under-Secretary-General B. Lynn Pascoe. The Council decided on 15 September (see S/PV.6385) that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) would terminate on 15 January 2011. Since then, UNMIN has continued to encourage the early resolution of issues that would contribute to the Mission's orderly departure and, furthermore, would give the United Nations, the Council and above all the people of Nepal confidence that the peace process is on track.

Nepal's peace process has remained largely deadlocked following the resignation of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal in June 2010. There has been little progress on the most critical issues of forming a new Government and integrating and rehabilitating the personnel of the Maoist army. Some progress has been made on the new constitution, but it may be difficult to meet the promulgation deadline of May 2011.

Despite many problems, Nepal's interim Government between April 2007 and August 2008 reflected agreement to share power. Since the elections, the parties have found it extremely difficult to maintain

consensus and to find satisfactory power-sharing arrangements. They recently floated the idea of a rotational system of leadership, but did not reach agreement. At issue is not merely whether a new Government can be formed, but whether Nepal's peace process can move forward without it.

Voting for a new prime minister has been halted since the President prorogued Parliament on 20 November, under circumstances described in the Secretary-General's report. Thereafter, the Government was not legally obliged to reconvene Parliament, and indeed Prime Minister Nepal had suggested that he might not do so until the Maoist army came under the effective supervision of the Special Committee. After a special session of Parliament convened at the request of over one-quarter of its members, it was agreed on 23 December to hold the regular session at the earliest. Parliament has now been summoned for 9 January, and it appears unlikely that a new Government will be in place by the time UNMIN's mandate expires.

Growing differences within the major political parties continue to add to the mistrust between the parties. In recent years, the internal processes of all major parties have arguably become significantly more open, participatory, inclusive and democratic, in line with provisions of the interim constitution, but there is divergence, within the parties on the peace process itself. Strong voices in the traditional parties demand an unambiguous embrace of multiparty democracy and pluralism by the Maoists. Within the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M), there is a perception of being marginalized and deliberately excluded from a leadership role in Government.

The remaining tasks of the peace process, and particularly the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel, require collective political will. No party on its own can identify and implement satisfactory solutions. But the failure of the peace process to advance has strengthened the hand of those on all sides who deride it as unproductive or far too slow. The Council will recall how close the Constituent Assembly had come to a premature end last May for similar reasons. Now, there is a real risk that the failure of the peace process will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The parties have not resolved the issue of the future monitoring of arms and armies after UNMIN's exit. Restrictions on the formerly warring armies have been a cornerstone of Nepal's peace, and as such the monitoring arrangements are also a potential flashpoint for failure. The independent, interim monitoring of the armies was intended initially to help create confidence for the election of the Constituent Assembly, and thereafter for the completion of the remaining key tasks of the peace process. The natural end to monitoring would have come with the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel and the Army's democratic reform and rightsizing, both activities which should have gotten under way with the interim Government in 2007.

Despite many challenges, Nepal's arms monitoring regime has been strikingly successful. There have been violations, as reported to the Council, but these have been the exception. Based on a legal agreement and a light presence of United Nations arms monitors, the main ingredients have been the armies' self-discipline and the United Nations-chaired Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee, a reliable mechanism for building confidence, addressing violations and resolving disputes.

Since March 2010, and as requested by the Council, UNMIN has consulted intensively with the parties on options for a transfer of monitoring responsibilities. We put forward examples of alternative arrangements — recalling, for instance, the original joint monitoring teams of 2007, with membership of the Nepal Army, the Maoist army and UNMIN. At the same time, our strong advice to the parties has been that, rather than simply replicating a monitoring regime, they should move forward more swiftly on finding solutions for the 19,000 Maoist army personnel. UNMIN itself sought to generate discussion and planning, and many potential donors have also been active on this front.

Following September's four-point agreement, there has been some movement in the secretariat of the Special Committee, as described in the Secretary-General's report. But there is considerable confusion and disagreement on how and by whom monitoring will be conducted after UNMIN. Today, 10 days before the end of the Mission, there is yet no consensus mechanism to which UNMIN can hand over its monitoring responsibilities. It is not clear what will happen after UNMIN withdraws.

This situation presents potential risks, and I would like to set out some legal, political and practical

considerations in this regard. The Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies of 26 November 2006, witnessed by UNMIN, spells out the role of the United Nations Mission as the monitor of these arrangements, as does the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 November 2006, both referred to in the interim constitution of 2007.

These agreements are binding on the parties, and become no less so after UNMIN departs. All the agreements can be revised by the parties, for example to provide for an alternative monitoring agent, but they have yet to do so. The departure of UNMIN, the designated monitor, seems set to create a legal void. In September, the Special Committee adopted a directive for the supervision, control and direction, and code of conduct for the Maoist army personnel. The directive itself was not foreseen as substituting for the arms monitoring Agreement, nor as making the Special Committee the replacement of UNMIN. The arms monitoring Agreement is carefully worded. The 24-hour monitoring of weapons belonging to the Maoist army and the Nepal Army is set out in some detail, as are the permitted and restricted activities for both armies and the mechanism for resolving any disputes that arise in this regard.

Since October, I have raised repeatedly with the parties the need for clarity on the monitoring arrangements that will be in place after UNMIN's exit. On 13 December 2010, I wrote to Prime Minister Nepal and UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, with copy to the relevant political parties. The Prime Minister told me on 22 December that the Government would draw up and present to the Maoists a separate agreement covering the gaps between the Special Committee's supervisory regime and the existing arms monitoring regime. This does not appear to have been done, however, and on 3 January UNMIN received a response to our letter from the Prime Minister's Office. I must state clearly that the positions presented in this letter do not reflect consensus in the Special Committee and appear to deviate significantly from the interim constitution.

The Office of the Prime Minister states that the Special Committee will, through its secretariat, take charge of the monitoring functions currently carried out by UNMIN, and any issues not covered by its directives will be addressed by the Special Committee as and when required. Secondly, the letter makes clear that the Nepal Army will no longer be subject to monitoring, as set out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the arms monitoring Agreement, but will be managed under other existing constitutional and legal provisions. Thirdly, the Prime Minister's Office states that there is no longer a need for any dispute resolution mechanism in connection with monitoring arrangements, as any disputes will be resolved by consensus in the Special Committee. And, finally, the Government reiterates the request that all relevant documents, United Nations equipment and logistics, including the containers with arms and ammunition, be handed over by UNMIN to the Special Committee or designated mechanism.

The proposal for monitoring the Maoist army presented by the office of the Prime Minister had already been rejected formally by the UCPN-M, a position repeated in a letter of 4 January 2011 from the UCPN-M to UNMIN. These monitoring arrangements are not agreed. Nor is there agreement to end the monitoring of the Nepal Army.

This proposal would effectively abrogate critical agreements, with potentially far-reaching political consequences that should be well understood by the Council. Expunging these agreements would create grave uncertainties and can be expected to erode the confidence that has been built up around arms monitoring and through the important achievements of the peace process so far.

UNMIN has consistently pressed for action by the Special Committee on the supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel, as constitutionally mandated. The Special Committee is a political body, its nine appointees designated by six political parties, four of which are members of the current Government. Its reduced ability to work by consensus reflects the hardened political divisions overall. It is in no position to resolve highly politicized disputes.

With respect to the request by the Prime Minister's Office for the transfer of UNMIN documents and equipment, UNMIN has underlined its readiness to provide all possible support to agreed follow-on arrangements. UNMIN arms monitoring officers briefed the Special Committee on the monitoring modalities and equipment during their visit to main cantonment site 3, in Chitwan, on 26 December 2010.

In numerous discussions with the Government about the disposal of monitoring-related United

Nations assets, UNMIN has set out the relevant United Nations administrative procedures. It should be noted that the stored arms and ammunition belong to the parties. UNMIN's responsibility has been to monitor it, but the Mission has no authority for its disposal. We have explained that the United Nations-owned vehicles will, as a priority, be sent to other missions. If the other equipment is not needed by other missions or United Nations agencies, it may be available for donation or, in the shorter term, for loan.

As we have underlined, however, the arms-monitoring function is based on agreement, and UNMIN requires a clear and consensual response as to how the monitoring equipment would be used. The Council has consistently urged the parties "to agree and implement a timetabled action plan with clear benchmarks for the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel" (*resolution 1921 (2010), para. 4*), and decided that, working with the parties, UNMIN should make the necessary arrangements for its withdrawal, including handing over any residual monitoring responsibilities. It is not an option for us to hand over monitoring-related United Nations equipment to the Government without agreement between the Government and the UCPN-M on the nature and form of future monitoring. UNMIN alerted the parties in our letter of 13 December that without such agreement, the Mission would dismantle and remove valuable United Nations-owned assets from the cantonments on 15 January, in line with standard procedures.

Under the four-point agreement concluded last September, the Government and the UCPN-M were to basically complete the remaining tasks of the peace process by 14 January 2011. UNMIN has long pressed the parties to expedite solutions for the Maoist army and the Nepal Army.

At a meeting of the Special Committee on 19 December, its secretariat presented a work plan for the supervision, integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army. The meeting concluded without agreement on the work plan, however, as Maoist members lodged a written dissent, citing the need to resolve the future of the Arms Monitoring Agreement and the modalities and numbers for integration and rehabilitation.

Major issues pertaining to integration and rehabilitation remain unresolved. These include the numbers, norms and modalities for integration into the security forces; whether the combatants will be integrated principally into the Nepal Army and Armed Police Force or into other forces; and the value of the proposed rehabilitation packages. The international community has long been ready to provide support to rehabilitation options. It is past time for addressing the largely unproductive lives led by young people in cantonments, notwithstanding the training provided to many and their completion of school-leaving certificates.

The United Nations has also consistently pointed to the importance of establishing the right size for the Nepal Army and bringing it under democratic control, as foreseen in the Interim Constitution. A Cabinet meeting on 26 December decided to form a three-member defence directorate committee headed by the Defence Minister to oversee the process of democratization and civilian control of the Nepal Army. The Chief of Army Staff is a member, and the Defence Secretary is a member-secretary. This is the first formal mechanism aimed at better coordination between the Nepal Army and the Ministry of Defence.

The Council and UNMIN have urged the parties to find a consensual way forward through flexibility and compromise, while remaining true to their commitments to the fundamental principles and goals set out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including multiparty democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the fundamental transformation of the State to address the problems based on class, caste, region and sex.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement remains a lodestar for Nepal, pinpointing the issues that hold the key to sustainable peace and development. Many ethnic and traditionally marginalized groups now anticipate their improved representation at all levels of society and Government, and the benefits of greater decentralization. The contestation over resources and a share in decision-making is now heightened and can be expected to be a source of future tension and potential instability.

Issues related to ownership of land and property are central to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements. But land-reform efforts have stalled, and the provision of land to economically backward classes has been limited and incomplete, as has the return of land and property seized by the Maoists during the conflict.

The human rights situation continues to be characterized by a general atmosphere of impunity and lack of accountability. As the Council is aware, some journalists have been killed, while others have been threatened. Efforts to establish a truth and reconciliation commission and a commission of inquiry on disappearances have slowed.

Security in the Terai remains fragile and the region has experienced a spate of extrajudicial killings. Violent youth groups, including the Young Communist League and the Youth Force, engaged in especially significant violence between February and May 2010, and reportedly remain embroiled in extortion activities.

Despite the stalemate over many critical matters, there has been some encouraging progress in reducing contentious issues in the new constitution. While the high-level task force that helped achieve this was dissolved in December, the 28 parties represented in the Constituent Assembly have decided to meet regularly under the leadership of the Speaker to address the remaining 83 contentious issues in the constitution-drafting process. The parties will seek to amend parliamentary regulations in order to send unresolved issues to the Constitutional Committee. Time is short for these tasks to be accomplished before the 28 May deadline for promulgation.

The political parties showed significant flexibility in the high-level task force, chaired by UCPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, in rapidly resolving several issues. Serious differences still remain, however, on the names, numbers and boundaries of federal states and on forms of governance.

Nepal's new constitution is expected to reflect the most important commitments of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, making that constitution perhaps the single most critical milestone in the country's democratic transition.

As UNMIN prepares to leave Nepal after four years, its work should be a source of pride to the United Nations. The Mission's rapid deployment came about with strong support from regional and other actors, notably the Governments of India and Norway. UNMIN was fortunate in securing deeply dedicated personnel, and was able to include among its national staff a high proportion of traditionally marginalized groups.

UNMIN brought expertise and impartiality to the support of the elections; to the monitoring of arms and armies and the convening of 134 sessions of the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee, which has resolved many issues and prevented their politicization; to the registration and verification of Maoist personnel in cantonments; and to the negotiation of the discharge of the disqualified. UNMIN also maintained steadfast impartiality in investigating and assessing reported violations of the Arms Monitoring Agreement.

Cooperation between UNMIN and the United Nations country team has been high. By the middle of 2008, responsibility for mine action had been transferred to the country team, as had, by early 2009, leadership of the United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal. Child protection issues, especially the discharge of Maoist army personnel disqualified as minors, has involved solid coordination among UNMIN, the Office of the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Although the process is still incomplete, the Mission has performed its mandated tasks and has, I am convinced, contributed significantly to the peace process. The Mission has faced high expectations from the public and the parties, well beyond its limited mandate, as core political disputes can be resolved only by the parties themselves.

The primary objective of the Mission's establishment was the successful election of the Constituent Assembly. Upon its completion, the monitoring task was extended repeatedly, while relations among the parties continued to erode. The Mission would have benefited from a review of the mandate after the elections. Stronger support to the peace process overall, possibly including monitoring of the peace agreements more broadly, as well as technical support, particularly to the integration and rehabilitation process, should have been considered seriously. Some parties did ask UNMIN to take on elements of these roles.

UNMIN has been an expression of the international community's support for and investment in Nepal's peace process. There has been understandable frustration with an attenuated process

far removed from the optimistic 12-month period originally mandated by the Council. Four years on, it should be recognized that Nepal has undertaken a complex long-term project of peace, democracy and State transformation.

The historic Twelve-point Understanding which the warring parties signed in 2005 committed them to establishing absolute democracy in Nepal, but completing the course and managing the process have now become acutely challenging. Deep divisions have emerged over its direction and the sequencing of steps, especially with respect to the future of Maoist army personnel and the promulgation of the new constitution.

While Nepal's dramatic political gains are not likely to be reversed, the risks have clearly grown. There have at times been fears among many Nepalis over the prospect of a "peoples' revolt", which remains an explicit Maoist threat; of the President stepping in, as recently called for by the Vice-President, should the parties fail to find a way forward; or of an army-backed coup. Any such measures would sorely threaten peace and Nepal's fragile democracy.

Adopting the new constitution should close the door firmly on any undemocratic governance alternatives, of which the United Nations has also repeatedly warned. Parties on both the left and the right will need to show patience and remain faithful to the core documents of the peace process. The traditional parties need to demonstrate that their intention was not simply to marginalize the Maoists through day-to-day politics, while the Maoists must demonstrate unambiguously that they intend to abide by democratic politics.

This peace process can be brought to a close in two ways: satisfactorily, through the negotiated resolution of outstanding issues, or abortively, with one or more parties reneging on their solemn commitments. Setbacks and challenges are inevitable, but it is in the interest of the country, the region and the international community as a whole that the peace process be maintained, respected and steered to a proper close. UNMIN has continued to encourage dignified negotiated solutions, which require a moderation of positions on all sides. The parties can build on the dialogue that has been their long-standing strength, shun the demonizing of one another, and sidestep the broad array of spoilers. At this moment, we encourage them to come to rapid agreement on the future of the monitoring of arms and armies.

It remains vital that the international community speak with one voice on the need for the peace process to continue on the basis of dialogue and compromise, for Nepal to have a new constitution by the end of May as agreed by the parties, and for a smooth election under the new constitution.

The matter of Nepal's peace process will now remain on the agenda of the Council for a further three years. Consistent with the strong and sustained support of the Secretary-General and the United Nations over the past several years for peace efforts in Nepal, principally through the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations will remain engaged and continue to make its contribution to the success of this process.

This is my final briefing to the Council on Nepal. I would like to thank the Government of Nepal and the political parties for their engagement with UNMIN, and likewise the Nepal Army and the Maoist army for their professional and profound commitment to our cooperation, particularly in the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee. I want to acknowledge the role played by sectors of civil society in Nepal's peace process and the knowledge and advice that they have shared with the Mission. We have worked closely with the national and international media in Nepal and beyond, and I appreciate the interest they have taken in UNMIN's role in the peace process.

UNMIN has benefited from close consultation and communication with the international diplomatic and development community in Nepal, and especially the Council members represented there. On behalf of the Secretary-General, all my dedicated colleagues in UNMIN, the United Nations family in Kathmandu, and the Department of Political Affairs, I would like to thank the Council and Member States, for the support they have given UNMIN over the last four years and will continue to give to Nepal's remarkable peace process.

Finally, I would like to express my profound personal gratitude to all my devoted colleagues, and especially to Ian Martin, Tamrat Samuel and Under-Secretary-General B. Lynn Pascoe, for our close and supportive working relationships.

The President: I thank Ms. Landgren for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Nepal.

Mr. Acharya (Nepal): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of January. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the new members of the Security Council and wish them all the best in their new responsibilities.

We have taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) contained in document S/2010/658, which highlights his assessment of the situation of Nepal's peace process over the past four months. Likewise, I wish to take note of remarks just made by Ms. Karin Landgren, Representative of the Secretary-General.

The way it has been presented, it looks as if we are moving towards a failure. I would like to state here in no uncertain terms that we are not looking at the failure of the peace process; we are working hard to ensure the successful transition towards the consolidation of peace. It is a natural shift from one stage to another. That is why there are certain complexities, which, I think, is only natural in any post-conflict situation, especially when that post-conflict situation is giving rise to an historic transformation.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) was established on 23 January 2007 through resolution 1740 (2007) as a special political mission to assist Nepal in its homegrown peace process. The United Nations was invited pursuant to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 21 November 2006 between the Government of Nepal and the then-Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist. UNMIN's planned one-year term has seen seven extensions and now extends to 15 January 2011.

I concur with the view of the Secretary-General that UNMIN has been a positive factor in the difficult context presented by the peace process during this period. On behalf of the Government and people of Nepal, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the United Nations, and in particular to UNMIN and its dedicated staff, for their contributions in the mandated areas to consolidating peace in Nepal. They helped us move towards a post-conflict situation on solid ground.

Now, we are preparing for the takeover after a four-year contribution of UNMIN to Nepal's peace process. The Government of Nepal has made every effort to ensure a smooth handover of all the works of UNMIN to the Special Committee, which is formed under the provision of article 146 of the interim constitution of Nepal. Representation on the Special Committee is comprised of major political parties, including the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist.

Resolution 1740 (2007) mandated the UNMIN to monitor the management of arms and armed personnel on both sides, assist in the monitoring of the ceasefire arrangements, and provide technical support for the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of a Constituent Assembly in a free and fair atmosphere.

UNMIN provided considerable assistance to the national authorities in conducting the historic Constituent Assembly elections and, prior to that, assisted in monitoring the ceasefire. In the aftermath of the successful elections to the Constituent Assembly, UNMIN has monitored the arms and Maoist army combatants cantoned in the 7 main and 21 satellite camps in different geographic areas of the country, and chaired the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee.

After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 21 November 2006, Nepal's peace process has achieved historic progress on several fronts. The promulgation of the interim constitution, the election to the Constituent Assembly and the declaration of a Federal Democratic Republic are crucial milestones in the contemporary history of Nepal. This has been possible with the courage, determination and understanding of the people of Nepal, led by the political parties, with the firm support of the international community.

The release of approximately 4,000 disqualified combatants in the beginning of 2010 was another significant step forward in our peace process. Among the released 4,008 disqualified ex-combatants, around 3,000 were identified as minors. I am happy to note that the Security Council team led by His Excellency Ambassador Claude Heller of Mexico visited Nepal in November for the first field visit of the Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

After the promulgation of the interim constitution of Nepal in 2007 and the Constituent Assembly election, Nepal's peace process entered into the new stage of peace consolidation. The Constituent Assembly has the primary function of writing a constitution for the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal that guarantees multi-party democracy, human rights, a federal structure and inclusive governance for the historic transformation of Nepal's political, economic and social landscapes. But at the same time, the Constituent Assembly is also working as a legislature-parliament and is therefore engaged in the parliamentary business, including the formation of a new Government.

Nepal's peace process will reach its culmination following the reintegration and rehabilitation of combatants and the promulgation of a new constitution. We are working hard on both these fronts. I would therefore like to assure the Security Council that we will be doing this with diligence and with devotion. The high-level committee comprised of top leaders from major political parties has succeeded in ironing out many of the differences — in fact, out of 180, already more than 130 have been taken care of — in the thematic reports of the Constituent Assembly. There are a number of issues that need to be settled in the months ahead by the parties at the Constituent Assembly. If it is taking more time, it is only because of the historic task of transformation that the new constitution is going to usher in the political, social and economic spheres in the days ahead.

We are fully cognizant of the fact that there are some concerns that Nepal's peace process has sometimes stalled or not moved forward as quickly as possible. But we believe that, given the necessary courage, maturity and flexibility, which the political parties have exhibited in times of need in the past, all the parties will muster a high level of maturity and understanding and move towards the logical conclusion of the peace process. This is so because the people of Nepal, more than anybody else, look forward to the full transition to a normal situation at the earliest possible time. That would effectively stimulate rapid and inclusive economic development and accelerate the building of necessary infrastructure within a consolidated atmosphere of peace and security. It would also contribute to strengthening stability and prosperity on a sustainable basis in the economically vibrant neighbourhood of Nepal. We are aware that this is what the international community is looking forward to in Nepal as well.

The Government has already made the necessary preparations with a view to making the constitutionally formed Special Committee a body capable of taking over all the works of UNMIN in a seamless manner after the Mission's withdrawal. The Special Committee will supervise arms and Maoist army combatants as per the guidelines laid out in the directives for supervision, control, direction and code of conduct for the Maoist Army combatants, which were adopted unanimously on 17 September 2010. I repeat that these directives have already been approved unanimously by the Committee.

The Special Committee will itself be a place to settle disputes and any other issues that may come up in the course of the peace process onwards. The Government of Nepal has already sent a letter to UNMIN and, through it, to the United Nations on issues related to the monitoring of Maoist army combatants and arms, on the Nepal Army and arms, on the Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies, on the dispute resolution mechanism, and on the request for the transfer of the updated records of Maoist arms and army combatants and all the materials, equipment and logistics used by UNMIN for monitoring tasks.

The Government and people of Nepal remain grateful to the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, for providing continued support for our peace process from the beginning. I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Council as a whole and to each and every member of the Council for extending excellent cooperation in Nepal's peace process.

I would like to express my Government's gratitude and sincere thanks to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his personal interest in the success of Nepal's peace process. He visited Nepal during UNMIN's mandate in October 2008, and expressed his firm commitment to its success. My sincere appreciation and thanks also go to Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe for his consistent involvement and several important visits that contributed to consolidating Nepal's peace process. I would also like to thank Ms. Karin Landgren for leading her able team and for their dedicated service in Nepal.

I also take this opportunity to thank her predecessor, Mr. Ian Martin, for his contribution in Nepal, first as the head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, and later as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIN during the crucial phases of our peace process. My thanks also go to Mr. Tamrat Samuel for his contributions in his capacity as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Director of the Asia and Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs. UNMIN and its leaders will be remembered for their contributions to Nepal's peace process and contemporary developments.

Finally, we are confident that we will continue to enjoy international support and goodwill to consolidate peace, stability and economic development in Nepal. It is incumbent upon me, on behalf of my Government and people, to assure the Security Council that Nepal is committed to the path of peace, stability and development and will remain fully engaged with the international community in the days ahead. Peace, development and human rights are indivisible, and they need to be supported coherently to ensure the sustainable progress of all countries around the world. This is even more true for countries emerging from conflict. We look forward to working together in the days ahead to ensure a better and prosperous future for all the Nepali people within a more peaceful and secure world.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Karin Landgren, who is today making her last briefing to the Council in her capacity as Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal. We have appreciated her leadership of the United Nations Mission in Nepal, and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6466th meeting

Friday, 14 January 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)

Report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process (S/2010/658)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-20684 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Minute of silence

The President: At the outset of the meeting, I should like, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, to ask that all those present now stand and join in observing a minute of silence in solemn commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 and of those who lost their lives or were injured on that day.

The members of the Security Council observed a minute of silence.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)

Report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process (S/2010/658)

The President: I should like to invite the representative of Nepal to participate in this meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/658, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process.

I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"As the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) completes its preparations for its departure on 15 January 2011, the Security Council expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Secretary-General's Representative, Karin Landgren, and the UNMIN team for their efforts in assisting the people of Nepal as they work to complete the peace process.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the peace process and calls on the caretaker Government of Nepal and all political parties to redouble their efforts, to continue to work together in the spirit of consensus to fulfil the commitments that they made in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other agreements, and to resolve expeditiously the outstanding issues of the peace process. The Security Council encourages Nepal to complete its new constitution within the foreseen time frame to help it build a better, more equitable and democratic future for its people.

"The Security Council welcomes the ongoing engagement of the Secretary-General and United Nations bodies as they continue to be supportive of the peace process and the people of Nepal.

"The Security Council will continue to be supportive of the peace process in Nepal."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/1.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6467

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6467th meeting

Friday, 14 January 2011, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2010/675)

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11-20690 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2010/675)

The President: I should like to welcome the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar, and invite them to take part in today's meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Mohamed to a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I also invite Mr. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/675, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mahiga.

Mr. Mahiga: I thank the Security Council for the opportunity to introduce the Secretary-General's report on Somalia (S/2010/675). I will focus my statement on developments since the issuance of the report. I take this opportunity to welcome the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina during this month. I welcome and congratulate the new members of the Security Council: South Africa, India, Portugal, Germany and Colombia.

Allow me also to thank the Council for having adopted resolution 1964 (2010) on 22 December 2010, which approved the expansion of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In this final leg of the transition, the gains of the Djibouti Agreement, modest as they may be, remain the basis for advancing the peace process and must be consolidated.

Last week, I travelled to Mogadishu, where I had useful discussions with President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who is with us this morning. We discussed the draft road map prepared by the Government for ending the transition, which emphasizes good governance, institution-building and the provision of basic service to ensure its legitimacy. The draft road map is being circulated for comments and refinement. We look forward to its finalization.

Parliament has approved a budget for the first time. A plan of action for the first 100 days for each of the 18 ministries has also been prepared. Those are unprecedented initiatives by the Government — no previous Government has ever undertaken them. The new Cabinet is also unique in other ways. It is lean and technocratic and its members have distinguished professional qualifications and experience.

During my discussion with President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed on 4 January, he reaffirmed his commitment to the Djibouti Agreement, to moving forward with the transition process and to endeavouring, as much as possible, to accomplish the priority tasks within the given timeframe. While recognizing the importance of the constitution-making process, President Ahmed is also of the view that the process may not be sufficiently exhaustive or inclusive owing to access and security limitations, especially in the south-central part of the country. The President is keen to ensure the participation of Somaliland, Puntland, other areas of stability and the diaspora in the constitutional consultative process.

The President recognizes the need to end the transition and to engage in open and inclusive discussions with all stakeholders, using the mechanism of the high-level committee provided for in the Djibouti Agreement, and in the newly reactivated Coordination and Monitoring Committee. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) has led extensive consultations on the composition and functions of those mechanisms and on ways to ensure effective monitoring and support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

We have reached consensus that the high-level committee will act essentially as a vehicle for Somali-Somali dialogue, with the participation, as appropriate,

of some of the guarantors of the Djibouti Agreement. The Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be the platform for the TFG and all its partners to discuss the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement and transition issues. The discussions in the coming months will focus on developing consensus on the transition with all stakeholders and on the new political arrangements after August 2011.

The constitution-making process has reached the public consultation phase. In recognition of the critical role that the Transitional Federal Parliament is expected to play in the public consultations, the Independent Federal Constitution Commission and members of the Parliamentary Constitution Committee held a workshop in Nairobi from 14 to 16 December 2010 to build awareness among members of Parliament and to discuss ways in which Parliament could support the consultations in the constitution-making process.

In the coming weeks, UNPOS will more proactively support the Transitional Federal Government and institutions, groups and entities that are open to a constructive dialogue and peace. As set forth in the UNPOS political strategy, we will coordinate international efforts to help the Transitional Federal Institutions create a political platform to allow as many Somalis as possible to participate in the ongoing constitutional initiative. That will provide the country with a viable alternative to the current transition.

In the meantime, stabilizing the security situation in Mogadishu is the key to paving the way for the expansion of political space by Government forces and AMISOM beyond the capital. That will help the Government to expand its outreach, deliver services and create the political space required for the engagement of other groups, starting with Mogadishu and the adjacent Benadir region.

In that regard, the recent upsurge in violence by insurgents to gain control of new territories and regain areas under TFG control is a matter of concern. The Government is seeking the assistance of the United Nations and the international community in the provision of basic social services in the areas under its control and in other parts of the country. In that regard, the expeditious implementation of resolution 1964 (2010) is essential to facilitating the implementation of the political strategy and to addressing the humanitarian challenges in Somalia.

In recognition of that goal, the United Nations is increasing its efforts to develop coherent and integrated support to Somali institutions, including by establishing a light footprint in some parts of Somalia. Recent months have seen regular interactions between UNPOS, the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and the United Nations country team at both the senior and working levels to ensure greater coherence and coordination among United Nations entities.

As we move forward, conditions of service for United Nations personnel in Somalia must be reviewed and improved in order to attract staff members to serve in this challenging and dangerous environment. I intend to take up this matter with the relevant bodies of the United Nations and would welcome the support of Council members.

The increase in troop strength will provide AMISOM with much-needed additional personnel to fully implement the first phase of military operations and gain full control of Mogadishu. UNSOA is working closely with AMISOM to ensure that the logistics package for the additional 4,000 troops is made available once deployments begin.

However, as Council members are aware, critical gaps remain in the United Nations support package to AMISOM. In particular, the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment costs are not covered under the logistical support package. It is essential for the success of the Mission that these costs are fully covered from contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. In addition, AMISOM faces significant equipment shortfalls that limit its ability to achieve its mandated tasks. African Union member States may also require assistance in mobilizing the specialized enabling units that are required for the Mission.

While commending Member States for the bilateral support extended thus far to troop-contributing countries, I appeal for more assistance to narrow equipment shortfalls, in addition to training and further support for specialized enabling units.

I am also pleased to report that AMISOM has become increasingly aware of the need to protect civilians in conflict areas. AMISOM has also accepted responsibility for investigating civilian casualties caused by its troops.

The Government faces the daunting task of building an army and other security organs in the midst of a conflict. There is an immediate need to mentor and establish a command and control structure by training a capable officer corps. The continued lack of a command structure affects troop discipline and morale. Two countries in the region have offered to train both commissioned and non-commissioned officers for Somalia. I appeal to our partners to support those offers. I thank all those who have contributed bilaterally and through the Trust Fund to support Somali security institutions, in particular the police, which will be key to developing the sector.

In addition, the issue of receiving and rehabilitating defectors requires immediate attention. I encourage action by the Transitional Federal Government to receive the growing number of fighters who are defecting from the ranks of the insurgents. As a matter of priority, we are still initiating and seeking to coordinate an inter-agency response to the issue of defectors from Al-Shabaab. I ask the international community to support these efforts to weaken the insurgents.

The unfolding situation of severe drought in Somalia is cause for serious concern as the short rains have failed in most parts of the country. Already, 2 million people are affected, and that number is expected to rise as water supplies dwindle, livestock is decimated and internal displacement escalates. To support the drought-affected population, the United Nations country team in Somalia released $4.5 million from the Common Humanitarian Fund for emergency response, focusing on water, sanitation, nutrition and health, and called on all parties to facilitate humanitarian access. A further $15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund has also been allocated for drought response as the number of affected is likely to increase. The World Food Programme food pipeline will be depleted in three months' time; it is facing an acute funding shortfall of $40 million.

In our efforts at UNPOS to address the issue of piracy, I held constructive discussions with the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Mr. Jack Lang, whose report will be out soon. At UNPOS, we have established a task force on piracy to support international and regional efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. However, UNPOS still needs additional capacity to enable it to play a meaningful role in this area. We shall seek to pursue a comprehensive counter-piracy approach through the pillars of deterrence, prosecution and root causes on land. We intend to begin by reactivating the Kampala Framework of cooperation between the TFG, Puntland and Somaliland.

Finally, let me express my deep gratitude to the international community for its continued support for Somalia in its quest to achieve durable peace and stability.

The President: I thank Mr. Mahiga for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

Mr. Mohamed (Somalia): Let me congratulate you, Sir, on assuming of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. Let me also pay tribute to the able leadership shown by the President of the Council last month.

I am grateful for the privilege to address the Security Council, and I take this opportunity to update members on the progress made by our new Government in our first 50 days, as well as some urgent news regarding the humanitarian situation in Somalia and the situation in Somalia more generally.

Our message remains firm and clear. We are focused on security, reconciliation, transitional tasks such as making progress on the constitutional process, humanitarian assistance, and effective, transparent and accountable governance. Our hope is that we will quickly fledge into a stable and secure Government catering to the needs of our people and able to provide services to them. We want space for our enterprising population to return home and establish flourishing businesses as they have done around the world.

As to security matters, our forces, with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), are winning the security battle. Gradual and incremental though it may be, the secure space in Mogadishu grows daily. That is the nature of urban conflict, in which the protection of civilians is as important as expelling insurgents. While about 60 per cent of the city of Mogadishu is now recognizably under Government control, 80 per cent of the population now lives in our area, and that is the true

measure of our success. The people of Mogadishu have overwhelmingly voted with their feet and moved to the more secure Government-controlled areas of the city.

Furthermore, we are starting to see a rise in the number of young Al-Shabaab fighters surrendering to the Government and AMISOM forces. Seven young men handed themselves over to the Government just last week. Many are evidently weak, starving and distressed. We hear the most disturbing tales of oppression, and we know very well that a generation of young Somalis will endure long-term emotional and psychological damage if we cannot bring an end to this violence soon.

The additional 4,000 troops mandated to join AMISOM, for which we are most grateful to the Council, will have a dramatic impact on this process, and we welcome their arrival as soon as possible.

Within our first 50 days, our Government has openly and transparently completed our first monthly payment of stipends to our soldiers. We are ready to repeat this each month, and systems are being put in place to establish a full biometric register our forces by our fourth month. This simple act of transparent Government is evidence of our intent.

We await the return to Mogadishu in February of 940 soldiers who have completed training with the European Union in Uganda. The next cadre of recruits is ready to go.

In the context of the ultimate aspect of the wider security issue, our cabinet has debated at great length the issue of indirect fire and civilian casualties. The incessant allegations and the effect they have on public perceptions must be addressed. We stand side by side with AMISOM, which we know conducts its military operations with integrity and discipline. However, we must do more together to reduce accidental damage and loss of life, better control the use of indirect fire, and reassure our population against enemy propaganda claiming that they are targeted indiscriminately.

We have recognized the need to establish a joint committee with AMISOM at cabinet level to work with the AMISOM Force Commander to establish communication and maintain protocols within which we must all work. The most effective policy, of course, would be to create the strength to eject Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu outright, thereby entirely removing any need for indirect fire within the city.

Undoubtedly, the most important of the transitional tasks is the completion of the new constitution for our nation. If such a constitution is to have absolute legitimacy and binding authority, both the process and the eventual content must be beyond reproach and solely in the interests of the Somali people.

An important step in the constitutional process has been taken within the past month as Parliament approved 15 additional members of the independent constitutional commission. We have asked the commission to expedite its work and expand its consultations. We have engaged Somali constitutional scholars, lawyers, religious scholars and experts in Somali culture to review the draft constitution, along with the independent commission. We intend to be ready to move to the new stage of parliamentary approval and then to public consultations within the next few months. The constitution is such an important document, with profound implications for the future of our people and country, that it is essential that we take the time needed to do it right, without having to respond to artificial external pressure.

On two separate occasions within the past month, I have dispatched high-level delegations to Galguduud and Puntland. In both cases, our delegations have successfully diffused clan disputes that threatened stability in those regions. We continue to reach out to all communities in our country and to lead the process of peacebuilding and reconciliation. Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a and the Government have a good relationship. Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a is part of the Council of Ministers, and its members hold other key positions, such as Deputy Commander of the Somali army.

Our Government acknowledges the pressing need for immediate progress towards open and transparent governance. I have taken a number of steps very early in our administration to set standards and provide clear statements of intent. The Cabinet has signed a code of ethics and a full declaration of wealth. An anti-corruption commission has been instituted, with the power to investigate and review Government procedures and decisions. Ministerial travel can be undertaken only with my consent, and a full registry of Government property and vehicles is being prepared. Our Government is committed to Mogadishu and Somalia, and that is where you will find us.

A full budget providing a comprehensive outline of Government spending in 2011 has been submitted by our Cabinet and approved by Parliament. Ministers have been allocated their budgets for the year, with priority placed on the payment of civil servants. In November 2010, the port of Mogadishu collected and deposited into the Central Bank of Somalia record revenues of over $2 million. This is the highest monthly revenue in the past 20 years.

Transparency and accountability are the watchwords of our Government. The technical experts within the Cabinet have immediately found ways of demonstrating good processes and sound administration; registering and paying troops; formulating, processing and implementing our budget; and instituting new measures of accountability and transparency within the Government. There are a lot of simple but demonstrable processes that we can deliver to inspire confidence. This is just the beginning, but in 50 days we have done more than has been done previously. The Transitional Federal Government requires budgetary support from the international community if it is to deliver services to its citizens.

Success has brought and will continue to bring with it a variety of challenging consequences. As many Council members may know, Somalia is in the grip of a potentially devastating drought. Agriculture is in the early stage of collapse. A crisis looms as over 2 million people face starvation. The Government has started delivering aid to internally displaced persons and the poor as best we can in areas under Government control. We have also identified ways of reaching out and delivering aid to areas under rebel control. We have called on the Somali people to help each other and on businesses and people in the diaspora to donate and support their extended families.

We are grateful for the generous donation of 149 tons of food from our friends and brothers in the United Arab Emirates. We thank them and ask others to respond similarly. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations must accelerate their arrival in Mogadishu and assist in organizing the provision of services and humanitarian aid. The long-term questions of disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation must also be addressed. People who have escaped the terror of Al-Shabaab need and deserve all our help.

Our forces, together with AMISOM, have our security in hand. The Government is opening up, police are being trained, the Mayor is cleaning and organizing the city, and the people are ready to rebuild their lives. We are all ready to work with the United Nations. Currently, AMISOM is the sole agent for international support operating in Mogadishu. It cannot continue to carry the weight of military strategy, security, police mentoring and training, medical aid and humanitarian aid alone. It needs support, and it needs it now. We need support and we need it now.

The debate concerning the future of the Government in Somalia beyond August this year will undoubtedly have begun within the international community. We do not intend to be bystanders in this debate. We will demonstrate repeatedly between now and August that we are a legitimate and effective Government. We accept that the international community needs a partner it can depend upon and work with. We will be that partner. We will show that we have a coherent and transparent programme for the future and that, despite the most difficult of circumstances, we have laid the foundation for a secure Government. Our political development will not always be pretty, but given time within a secure environment and with the support of the international community to relieve the humanitarian crisis, Somalia will lead Somalia out of its darkest days.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, for the extraordinary job that he is currently doing, working with my Government to create lasting peace and stability in Somalia.

The President: I thank the Prime Minister of Somalia for his statement.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this matter.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6468

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6468th meeting

Tuesday, 18 January 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

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11-20932 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: I should like to invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

I should also like to invite Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, and Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chairperson of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, to participate in this meeting under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. I welcome Mr. Menkerios, who is joining today's meeting by video teleconference from Khartoum. I welcome Mr. Mkapa, who is joining today's meeting by video teleconference from Juba.

I now give the floor to Mr. Menkerios.

Mr. Menkerios: Last week's peaceful conclusion of polling in the Southern Sudan referendum marked an historic milestone in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This is a testament to the commitment of the two parties to the Agreement they signed six years ago and an illustration of their strategic decision to uphold the CPA as they approach the final and decisive stages of its implementation. I would like to take this opportunity to commend President Al-Bashir and Vice-President Kiir for the leadership and courage they displayed in taking the country along this difficult path, and call on them to continue such a partnership, which, as we have witnessed during the past few weeks, is absolutely critical to the successful completion of the peace process.

Polling, which started, as required by the CPA, on 9 January, concluded as planned on 15 January. Despite the short time frame and logistical challenges, all materials were distributed on time to the referendum centres. Registered voters in Southern Sudan, Northern Sudan and out of country were able to vote without any major problems. No significant security incident affected polling areas. Voting was disrupted only by weather conditions in Brisbane, Australia, and was extended by three days to guarantee that all registered persons could vote. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the work of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, the State High Commissions and the polling centre staff, as well as all their national and international partners who have worked tirelessly for the past few months and organized a remarkable polling process.

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announced on 13 January that the required 60 per cent threshold of registered voters — that is, 2,359,553 voters — had been reached by the fourth day of polling, making the referendum legally valid. Subsequently, on 16 January, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission Chairperson, Professor Khalil Ibrahim, announced that 83 per cent of registered voters had cast their ballots, a remarkable turnout.

The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Development Programme and other international partners worked closely with the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its subsidiary bodies, providing technical assistance and guidance on all aspects of the process. United Nations air assets were heavily utilized to deliver and retrieve polling materials and to transport key referendum staff and international observers. The international community, through its generous financial contributions, made possible the timely procurement of ballots, polling kits and other materials, and helped finance the training of polling staff and referendum security officials.

Security remained calm throughout the polling period in the South except for some minor clashes between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a rebel group in Unity state at the start of polling and some disturbances by cattle rustlers in Western Bahr el Ghazal, but none had any connection with the referendum, and the disruption these events caused to the polling process was minimal. Clashes in Abyei, where no voting was scheduled to take place, also had no direct impact on referendum security.

The referendum was closely observed and monitored by large numbers of domestic and international observers. More than 22,000 domestic observers were accredited to oversee the process, alongside approximately 600 international observers. Observers were present in the overseas centres in eight

countries. As Mr. Mkapa will undoubtedly mention in his briefing later, the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan noted in its preliminary statement that, based on its observations and those of its staff in the field, the Panel is satisfied that the process allowed the people of Southern Sudan to express their will freely. Similarly, the observer missions of the African Union (AU), the European Union, the Carter Centre, the Arab League and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development have issued statements concluding that the polling was free and fair.

The counting of ballots at each referendum centre commenced immediately after the closure of polls on 15 January. Results have been posted at each centre and are to be forwarded and aggregated at the next level between 17 and 23 January. Results from all referendum centres will be verified, approved and progressively announced. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission will announce preliminary results for the entire referendum on 2 February. Barring any legal appeals, the final results will be declared on 7 February and, in the case of appeals, on 14 February. Senior officials of the National Congress Party in Khartoum have already announced that the referendum would most probably meet the standards necessary for its outcome to be recognized and accepted.

With regard to post-referendum negotiations, as we move into the final six months of the CPA interim period, much remains to be done. The African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by President Mbeki, is mediating the negotiations on post-referendum arrangements with the help of UNMIS, the United States and other partners. We hope that the successful completion of the Southern Sudan referendum will help to enhance confidence between the two parties and help them make the necessary compromises to find solutions to the future status of Abyei and a host of other pending issues, as well as accelerate the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The parties now have the chance to launch a new stage in their relationship and to begin building a foundation for trust and cooperation.

As members of the Council are aware, the referendum for Abyei did not take place. Nonetheless, the parties remain engaged in the search for a resolution to the area's future status. The AU High-Level Implementation Panel has presented a set of proposals to the two parties, but they have not yet agreed on any of the options or presented alternatives. The talks are scheduled to resume on 27 January in Khartoum at the presidency level.

Uncertainty over Abyei continues to present a risk to peace and stability on the ground, and the Abyei area remains tense and volatile. Incidents on 7 and 8 January in different areas in the northern part of Abyei culminated in a significant confrontation between Ngok Dinka police forces and Misseriya communities on 9 January near the village of Makier Abior, approximately 13 kilometres north-west of Abyei town. Following the incidents, UNMIS was repeatedly denied access to the area and could not confirm the number of casualties, which is estimated at between 20 and 60. Soon thereafter, reprisal operations were launched by some of the affected Misseriya community members against a convoy of southern returnees while they were passing through Southern Kordofan on their way to cross the border home.

UNMIS moved quickly to prevent any escalation of violence, both through political intervention with political leaders and by directing increased patrolling on the ground. With UNMIS encouragement and participation, an intercommunal conference was quickly organized in Kadugli to address immediate concerns over the impending migration of the Misseriya, and a subsequent governmental meeting took place yesterday to address outstanding security needs in Abyei, returning internally displaced persons, Southerners living in the North and vice versa. The parties agreed to bolster security in Abyei, particularly its northern part, with an additional two battalions of joint integrated units, and to pull back the 300 Ngok Dinka policemen who had come from Wau, in the South, and had been deployed to northern Abyei posts, which triggered Misseriya reactions. They also agreed to completely disarm all communities in Abyei, to escort returnees to safe destinations, and to ensure the freedom of movement and security of migrants with their cattle through Abyei and southwards into other grazing areas in Southern Sudan.

UNMIS has increased both the size of its military deployment to Abyei and its military and civilian patrolling in the area in order to deter further attacks. Movement restrictions were placed on UNMIS patrols by both Ngok Dinka and Misseriya forces, which impeded the Mission's efforts in responding to the violence. Furthermore, incidents involving the

commandeering of United Nations vehicles by and direct threats to United Nations personnel by these armed elements reoccurred, which cannot and will not be tolerated.

These efforts to reduce tensions and prevent violence can help contain the situation. However, the continued absence of a final settlement for the future status of Abyei leaves open the possibility of further clashes between the communities on the ground. I therefore call on the parties to redouble their efforts to settle the Abyei dispute and display the same leadership and courage they have displayed regarding the Southern Sudan referendum.

Regarding Southern returnees, I welcome statements from both parties on their commitment and arrangements to protect and respect the rights of Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South, respectively. Over 1.2 million Southerners have returned since the signing of the CPA, with a recent surge since October 2010 involving approximately 160,000 Southern returnees. This process needs careful handling to avoid a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations is providing humanitarian support to the return process and stands ready to provide additional technical support as necessary. I welcome the recent decision taken by the Government of Southern Sudan to promote return and reintegration, in accordance with internationally accepted principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity.

Ahead of the referendum, the Government of Southern Sudan pursued its road map for political accommodation in the South with the signing of a ceasefire framework agreement between the SPLA and Lieutenant General George Athor. This is most welcome. The implementation of the promises made by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) during the all-party conference of October 2010 will similarly be critical to consolidating Southern stability in the post-referendum environment. UNMIS stands ready to provide support and assistance to this process and encourages the SPLM to move forward with it.

Regarding the popular consultations, the achievements of the CPA and the future of governance in Northern Sudan are also supposed to be reviewed through popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. Unfortunately, however, no sufficient political commitment has yet been demonstrated or clarity of objectives provided by the parties to meet the requirements of the peace process in the two states. One can hardly say that even in Blue Nile state, where elections have taken place, there is real confidence that the popular consultations will be carried out properly and lead to a solution to the inequities that led to marginalization and conflict in the past.

The popular consultations represent one of the key final benchmarks of the CPA and require both clarity and attention from the parties. Neither of them can afford to leave grievances and fears between rival communities in the two states unaddressed, and risk a resumption of hostilities in the border areas. Progress will absolutely need to be made on that front in the next six months if the gains achieved by the peace process so far are to be consolidated.

The Southern Sudan self-determination referendum is probably the single most important foundation for the future peace and stability of the Sudan and of the entire region.

The next few months will provide the basis for a transition to the post-CPA environment. As with any transition, it will be marked by a degree of uncertainty, considerable expectations and hopes for some, and fears of the new and unknown for others. Both the SPLM and the National Congress Party need to continue displaying the remarkable leadership, statesmanship and political courage they have demonstrated in the past few weeks to guide the Sudan through this difficult period.

Whatever the referendum's outcome, both Northern and Southern Sudan will remain multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious societies. Such diversity is always the strength of nations, never their weakness. With the conclusion of the CPA, both the North and the South will need new constitutional arrangements. This represents an important opportunity for both of them to engage relevant stakeholders and consolidate the peace and stability achieved under the CPA.

The United Nations and the rest of the international community will need to continue supporting the parties through the rest of the peace process and help to ensure that peace is maintained between them while stability and democracy are consolidated and deepened within them. The Sudan is on the eve of a new dawn, and it is going to need a heavy dose of encouragement and support from the

international community to make sure that committed implementation of the CPA signifies a final and definitive break with the past and opens a new era of prosperity and stability for all Sudanese.

The President: I thank Mr. Menkerios for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan.

Mr. Mkapa: I am grateful for the opportunity to brief the Council once again on the Southern Sudan referendum. My statement will be short, since I do not have much to add to the statement that the Secretary-General's Panel issued two days ago.

During the week of polling, the Panel members and I visited referendum centres in eight states, and the Panel's staff monitored the process in all Southern states and across the North. Based on our own observations and those of our staff in the field, as well as on accounts conveyed by various interlocutors in the Sudan, I can report on behalf of the Panel that we are satisfied that the process so far has been conducted in a peaceful and transparent manner, allowing the people of Southern Sudan to express their will freely. Preliminary statements issued by international observer groups have made similar assessments of the process.

Our reports indicate that polling procedures were properly followed overall. Polling centres generally opened on time and were well staffed and stocked. Referendum staff carried out their work in accordance with established procedures, and security was maintained at all locations monitored. The referendum staff appeared to be well-trained in counting and result-aggregation procedures, including security and transparency requirements. Ballots were counted in the presence of observers and results posted at referendum centres. The Panel has so far found no evidence to suggest that there was any systematic or widespread attempt to undermine the polling process.

We are now closely following the aggregation of results. The process of transmitting the results from nearly 3,000 referendum centres to county subcommittees and state high committees, and then to Juba and Khartoum, is under way. We understand that any alleged errors or fraud will be thoroughly investigated and that any results tainted by verified cases of errors or fraud will be dealt with appropriately.

A mere three months ago, when the Panel undertook its first visit to the Sudan, the timely, orderly and smooth conduct of polling was hard to imagine. The dedication and work of the commissioners and staff of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its Bureau, the registration and polling officers and the security officers involved are to be commended.

As we stated on 16 January, we would like to recognize the courage and leadership demonstrated by President Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, as well their commitment to implementing a major milestone of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In order for the outcome of the referendum to be sustainable, it is essential that a number of outstanding post-referendum issues between the parties be resolved. The Panel has urged governmental authorities and the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission to make every effort to ensure that all citizens are kept well informed of progress towards the final results. The Panel also called on the media and political forces to report on the process in a responsible manner.

Both parties have given important and unequivocal public assurances about respecting the outcome of the referendum. Leaders of both parties have also given assurances about the rights and safety of Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South. Early clarity on citizenship could ease some of the anxiety felt by those communities. The positive momentum achieved can be sustained only by further demonstration of goodwill and political commitment from both sides.

The President: I thank Mr. Mkapa for his briefing.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios for the support that the United Nations Mission in the Sudan is providing for the referendum process, as well as President Mkapa for the work of the Secretary-General's Panel. I also thank both of them for their briefings this morning. This has been an impressive United Nations operation.

Although we are concerned about events in Abyei, we are very encouraged by the peaceful and orderly conduct of the voting process in the referendum and by the Panel's assessment that the voting process allowed the people of the Sudan to express their will freely. Both the Intergovernmental

Authority on Development and the African Union called the referendum free, fair and credible. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and both Sudanese parties should be highly commended for this successful process. We welcome the timeline that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission has established for the announcement of the results. It is important that the timeline and the results, when announced, be respected by all parties. We must all work to ensure that the aggregation and counting process takes place in an atmosphere of patience and calm.

We deplore the clashes that took place in Abyei between 7 and 10 January and deeply regret the loss of life. We welcome the efforts of the parties' local leaders and of Special Representative Menkerios to restore calm and secure the local peace agreement reached on 13 January. We urge all parties to continue to work to that end. Such clashes underline the urgent need for reaching a lasting agreement on Abyei. We urge the swift resumption of talks and call on the parties to make the compromises necessary to secure long-term peace and stability.

A similar spirit of compromise will be needed to resolve crucial post-referendum issues, which include the border, citizenship and wealth-sharing. We call on the parties to show leadership in these areas, as they have done on the referendum. The Security Council remains united in its support for a peaceful and credible referendum and for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

I cannot close without addressing the situation in Darfur, which remains of deep concern. The recent abduction of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service employees in West Darfur highlights the lack of security in Darfur and its impact on humanitarian operations there. We call on all parties to cease hostilities immediately and to ensure full and unhindered access for humanitarian workers and the staff of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We continue to support the work of African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé and his efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement in Darfur. Genuine and enduring peace in Darfur will require a comprehensive and inclusive agreement. We therefore call on all rebel groups to join the peace process without delay or preconditions.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I also want to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios and President Mkapa for their important briefings today.

This is a historic moment. I join President Obama in congratulating the people and leaders of the Sudan on the successful completion of voting on the referendum on independence. The people of Southern Sudan, after decades of war and more than 2 million killed, have cast their votes peacefully and expressed their will. The promise of self-determination was made to the Southern Sudanese people in 2005. Thanks to the commitment of the people of the Sudan and the support of the international community, that promise was finally fulfilled. Let us not underestimate what this referendum means to the people of Southern Sudan. We have all heard reports of long lines forming overnight on 8 January and of people standing in line for hours to vote. We have even heard of a case in which a river ferry broke down and voters jumped into the presumably crocodile-infested river and swam across to reach the polling station. As President Obama said after the polling closed,

> "The past week has given the world renewed faith in the prospect of a peaceful, prosperous future for all of the Sudanese people — a future that the American people long to see in Sudan."

The United States commends the men and women of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for their outstanding work. Thanks to their tireless efforts under daunting challenges and difficult circumstances, the people of the Sudan have been able to take a huge step forward on the path towards the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended a 23-year civil war.

My Government congratulates Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios, who is performing an incredibly difficult job with grace and wisdom. We thank him.

We also welcome the work that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan have done to ensure that this historic referendum occurred on time and peacefully and reflected the will of the people.

We welcome the 16 January statement from the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the

Sudan, in which it stated that it was satisfied that the referendum process had "allowed the people of Southern Sudan to express their will freely". A number of other observer missions have also already released preliminary statements. On 17 January, the Carter Center called the referendum peaceful and credible and broadly consistent with international standards. The Arab League stated that the process was "in line with international standards". The European Union observer mission commended a "peaceful, credible voting process with overwhelming turnout". On 16 January, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and the African Union called the referendum "free, fair and credible." We commend the work of the hundreds of international and thousands of domestic observers. The United States continues to urge everyone to respect the results of the referendum.

Of course, we must all focus on the challenging and promising road ahead. We urge the parties to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible to negotiate a rapid and sustainable resolution to the question of Abyei and other outstanding CPA issues. The United States fully supports the efforts of the Chair of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, President Thabo Mbeki, to facilitate these agreements. We reiterate that any resolution regarding the future of the Abyei area must be reached with the consent of both parties and through a political settlement or a process that respects the rights and needs of those communities traditionally associated with the area.

Along with the status of Abyei, there are other outstanding issues that require urgent attention, such as border demarcation, citizenship, wealth-sharing agreements, natural resource management, the division of the national debt, security arrangements, currency arrangements and international treaties and legal obligations, which are all equally important. We also consider peaceful, inclusive popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states that reflect the will of the people to be essential components of the implementation of the CPA. We call on the parties to bring the same spirit to those negotiations as they have brought to the conduct of the referendum itself.

For all of the inspiring events in the Sudan over the past week, the United States laments the loss of life in Abyei and the border region and reiterates its deep concern regarding the arrest, detention and harassment of human rights activists and journalists by the Government of the Sudan's security forces, which prevented both a Sudan People's Liberation Movement leader and an Umma Party leader from conducting television interviews. In addition, four university students were arrested in separate incidents for trying to host discussions. We urge Council members to join us in calling on the Government of the Sudan to release those who have been imprisoned unjustly, including those jailed for exercising such basic rights as freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

As President Obama has made clear, the United States wants the leaders in the Sudan to choose the path of peace and prosperity for all of the Sudanese people. He has extended the hand of the United States in that spirit. In order for that future to be realized, however, the Sudan, too, must work with the international community. That includes cooperating with UNMIS and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to facilitate full freedom of access and movement for United Nations peacekeepers and for humanitarian workers.

That access is especially important given the alarming reports that Sudanese armed forces have burned homes and blocked civilians' access to UNAMID in Khor Abeche and that the Government of the Sudan violated the North-South ceasefire with repeated aerial bombardments into the Kiir River valley. That is in addition to the all-too-frequent reports of aerial bombardment in Jebel Marra and the Government of the Sudan's ongoing refusal to grant UNAMID patrols access to affected populations in spite of the status-of-forces agreement.

We are deeply saddened and troubled by the news that on 13 January three Bulgarian helicopter crew members contracted to the World Food Programme were kidnapped in Darfur. We convey our condolences to their families and we urge the Government of the Sudan to do its utmost to facilitate their safe return.

We recall that 40,000 residents of Darfur were displaced from their homes in December alone. Civilians continue to live under the threat of attack and sexual and gender-based violence. It is therefore in all of our interests to continue to work to prevent genocide.

The United States again calls on the Government of the Sudan to immediately halt aerial bombardments. We condemn attacks on civilians in the strongest possible terms. Obtaining a ceasefire between the

Government of the Sudan and the armed movements should be the immediate objective of the peace process. The political process for a Darfur peace agreement must be reinvigorated. All relevant parties must come back to the negotiating table.

As we discussed during consultations on the Sudan on 6 January, the unity shown by the Council has gone a long way towards supporting the parties as they have stayed on the path of peace. We need to continue to watch closely as the parties continue to implement the CPA. As progress is made, we should welcome it and offer continued encouragement. But just as important, we need to be prepared to insist upon and to support the full and final implementation of the CPA on such issues as protection of minorities and rejection of proxy militias and other threats to peace and security in the Sudan.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Allow me also to thank President Mkapa and Mr. Menkerios for their very detailed briefings on the recent consultative referendum on Southern Sudan.

I would like to comment briefly on the referendum, which took place in a peaceful atmosphere, as well as on the challenges that remain to be addressed and the situation in Darfur.

The referendum held on 9 January marked a decisive turning point in the history of the Sudan. By respecting the timetable set out by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Sudanese parties once again showed their courage and their capacity to overcome their differences to push forward peace and stability in their country. I would therefore like to pay them a warm tribute. My delegation urges them to show the same restraint until the announcement of the final results and to respect the outcome.

We would also like to congratulate the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission for having ensured the smooth conduct of the ballot. We are also grateful to the various international observers, who made it possible to monitor the ballot and affirmed its fair and democratic nature. Likewise, the support of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Development Programme and other partners deserve to be commended here.

We remain convinced that the same clear-sightedness shown by the Sudanese parties during the referendum will prevail in addressing the no less crucial issues that remain to be settled, in particular border demarcation, citizenship, the sharing of resources, the management of assets and debts, and security provisions. The future of fraternal relations and peaceful coexistence between the North and the South depend on that.

To that end, we are encouraged by the establishment of a framework to guide the talks on those important issues, and we would like to commend the role played by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel in that regard. Such progress, although minimal, merits support. The international community should encourage the parties to continue their efforts and to make the necessary concessions in order to reach a final agreement.

Moreover, we urge the parties to take courageous decisions in order to find an agreement on the issue of Abyei. The clashes that occurred during the voting show the volatility of the situation in that region. They also require the strengthening of UNMIS in the most sensitive areas of the border between the North and the South.

The success of the referendum in the Southern Sudan should not conceal the precarious nature of the situation in Darfur and its impact on civilian populations and humanitarian workers. Here too, the mobilization of the international community is important. We must keep the pressure on all parties and support the peace process, which is having difficulty in moving forward.

We welcome the joint efforts of Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé and Qatar that have made it possible to establish committees for talks between Khartoum and the Liberation and Justice Movement on issues such as power-sharing, wealth and security.

We reiterate our support for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). We also call on the Sudanese authorities to lift the restrictions imposed on UNAMID and humanitarian workers in order to allow them access to the needy populations in Darfur. Gabon hopes to see the Doha talks end in an inclusive peaceful agreement.

To conclude, my delegation would like to encourage the international community to invest in the economic development of the Southern Sudan in order to guarantee lasting peace and security, whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Finally, my delegation will support the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of our discussions.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): My delegation joins others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Haile Menkerios, and President Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, for their respective valuable briefings to the Council.

South Africa welcomes the convening of this important meeting, and we wish to focus our intervention on the following three pertinent issues: the referendum process and post-referendum issues, the need for continued political leadership and engagement, and the need to address the situation in Darfur.

South Africa followed the referendum process very closely, with the participation of 35 South Africans in the 110-member African Union (AU) observer mission. We pay tribute to the sterling work done by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau in executing what many have described as a historic and momentous achievement in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

We note that, between 9 and 15 January, the citizens of Southern Sudan, located in the South and the North and spread across the globe in eight countries, exercised their right to vote and to determine their future during the referendum on self-determination. The registration of more than 3.9 million voters and a voter turnout of more than 80 per cent are testament to the resolve and determination of the Southern Sudanese to exercise their right to vote and of their faith in the referendum process.

We commend the role of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, which, in four months, achieved such astonishing success, and of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the international community, which provided support for the process. My delegation joins previous speakers in saluting the millions of people who participated in the voting process for achieving this important milestone.

Instructive in that regard are the preliminary statements of the African Union observer mission on the Southern Sudan referendum, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, who is here today, that the referendum process was free, fair and credible and that it was conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Referendum Act.

We believe that it is vital that the peace and calm that characterized the referendum process be maintained as we await the outcome of the referendum. The observance of the rule of law is critical; in that regard, all aspects of the referendum must be conducted in compliance with the legislative framework set out in the Referendum Act, and all timelines respected.

On the need for continued political leadership and cooperation, South Africa commends the personal leadership and courage shown by President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, in particular on facilitating a conducive and peaceful environment in which citizens were able to participate freely and without fear in casting their ballot. My delegation also welcomes the commitment of the parties to respecting the outcome of the results.

We are impressed by the call made by First Vice-President Salva Kiir for forgiveness and reconciliation, and for his security forces to protect the citizens of the North and their property in the South. That is demonstrative of the political will and desire to secure a peaceful future for all the people of the Sudan and echoes similar sentiments for coexistence and cooperation previously expressed by President Al-Bashir. My delegation believes that the desire for cooperation and to secure peaceful post-referendum relations augurs well for peace and stability between the North and the South.

We call on all the parties in the Sudan to continue and maintain their close cooperation, whatever the outcome of the referendum may be. However, the successful holding of the referendum is not an end in itself, but represents a critical step in an onward journey to sustainable peace, stability and development. The international community should therefore continue to focus on the many challenges still confronting the Sudan.

In that regard, we are convinced that the work of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, chaired by former President Mbeki, continues to play an important facilitation role in finding mutually agreed outcomes to the post-referendum issues, such as

external debt, citizenship and border security arrangements. We encourage the parties to continue their cooperation with the Panel, and to invoke the same political will and level of commitment in guiding them towards agreement on the remaining issues.

As the violent and deadly events in Abyei last week clearly demonstrated, sustainable peace will require the continued commitment of the parties, as well as full implementation of the existing agreements. My delegation welcomes the agreement reached between the communities that brought an end to the hostilities and violence. We regret the loss of life suffered during the clashes. Those events again underscore the urgency and importance of concluding the political negotiation on Abyei, as facilitated by the AU Panel. My delegation remains convinced that such challenges are not insurmountable. It remains confident that such issues can be resolved with the continued support of the international community, as well as the necessary political will of the parties.

With regard to Darfur, the deteriorating security situation resulting from the clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Minni Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement has led to the displacement of more than 40,000 people. We call on all the parties to cease hostilities and for the SLA-Minni Minawi to recommit to a comprehensive ceasefire agreement.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the lack of progress in the Doha negotiations, and we urge parties to redouble their efforts to find a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the conflict in Darfur. We encourage the Government of the Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement to give consideration to the proposals presented by the mediation as a basis for seeking compromise and agreement to conclude these peace processes. We also encourage the launching of the inclusive political process, in the form of a Darfur-Darfur conference and with the objective of reaching a global political agreement, as soon as conditions allow.

Durable peace and development are brought about by cooperation rather than confrontation and by ballots rather than bullets. It is important that the parties in Darfur be inspired by the progress made in the North-South conflict and collectively seek a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict in Darfur. The international community should stand ready to assist the people of the Sudan in finding a lasting solution to that conflict.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan; Special Representative Menkerios; the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, led by former President Mr. Benjamin Mkapa; the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur, chaired by former President Mr. Thabo Mbeki; and the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Djibrill Bassolé, for their continued and tireless commitment to bringing peace and stability to the Sudan.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Like others, I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and President Mkapa for their comprehensive briefings and for the very significant work they have undertaken thus far. We are encouraged by their analysis and evaluation of the problems that still lie ahead.

Portugal welcomes the conclusion of the generally peaceful and orderly polling process for the referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan, consistent with international standards, and congratulates the Sudanese people on their patience and peaceful determination to cast their ballots in an orderly fashion. We also congratulate the leaders of the Sudan on their historic accomplishment. This was indeed a milestone, in terms not only of the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but also of underlining the Sudanese people's attachment to the democratic process.

Let me also commend the work of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in Khartoum and in Juba for its efforts to make the referendum happen, despite serious time constraints and numerous challenges. Portugal also commends the two parties to the CPA for maintaining the political commitment required to ensure that the peace process moves forward.

Portugal would like to voice appreciation for the support provided by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and for the work of the observer groups, including the very significant European Union election observation mission, which travelled throughout the Sudan to assess the situation. We also extend a word of gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan for its work.

The process is not finished, however. The transmission of results from nearly 3,000 referendum centres has only just begun. We call on the people and the parties of the Sudan to exercise the necessary restraint until the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announces the final result of the referendum, for which timelines have already been set. We believe it essential that, during this period, all citizens be kept well-informed of progress made towards the final results. We call on all the parties to respect the outcome of the referendum, which translates the expression of the free will of the people, and to refrain from any unilateral action.

While the Sudan awaits the provisional and final results, the protection of the fundamental rights of all Sudanese citizens is paramount. We therefore urge the parties to the CPA to reassure people of all nationalities in the Sudan, including Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South, that their rights, safety and property will continue to be respected.

Despite the remarkable operational and political achievement that the referendum represents, the work of completing the implementation of the CPA is not over. It will require persistent, patient and methodical negotiation by both parties and a spirit of compromise and cooperation. We are encouraged by the public commitments made by President Al-Bashir and first Vice-President Salva Kiir to continuing negotiations on outstanding CPA issues once the results have been announced.

In that context, it is of the utmost importance that the parties reach an agreement on Abyei, the absence of which is responsible for ongoing instability and acts of violence that we strongly deplore. Along with the future of the Abyei region, my delegation also recalls the need for timely and transparent popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Unfortunately, the peaceful climate of the referendum cannot be extended to Darfur. We remain deeply concerned by the increase in violence and insecurity in Darfur. We condemn the kidnapping on 13 January of three members of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service and urge their immediate release. Portugal calls on the parties to cease hostilities immediately, to ensure full and unhindered access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur throughout the mission area, and to allow humanitarian workers to provide assistance to all populations in need.

My delegation continues to underscore the need for a political resolution to the crisis and urge all groups to join and actively engage in the peace process without further delay or preconditions.

In conclusion, over the past two weeks, the Sudanese authorities conducted the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan, as envisaged in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended 22 years of civil war. The calm and orderly environment in which it took place gives us renewed faith in a peaceful and prosperous future for all Sudanese. To achieve that goal, we need the continuing engagement of all parties, including international and bilateral partners. It is of fundamental importance that the international community continue to support both the North and the South, regardless of the referendum outcome. Portugal stands ready to play its part.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Allow me to join previous speakers in expressing Brazil's appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and President Benjamin Mkapa for their briefings today.

My delegation is very pleased that the Southern Sudan referendum was carried out peacefully and in a transparent manner. The announcement by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission that the 60 per cent threshold had been achieved, thus making the referendum legally valid, is also encouraging. Brazil welcomes the indications that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement parties acknowledge that the voting process was fair and their assurances that they will accept and implement the results. We welcome the work of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan and its conclusion that the polling allowed the Sudanese people to freely express their will.

Brazil has sent a team of observers to the Sudan. They have reported that the voting proceeded well and that the Sudanese people showed enthusiasm, commitment, patience and determination. We therefore salute, first and foremost, the Sudanese people for this important achievement. Their leaders, as well as the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its Bureau, deserve our appreciation for their outstanding work. We are also grateful for the support provided by the United Nations. We commend Mr. Haile Menkerios for his dedication and skilful work, and thank President

Mkapa and the members of the Panel for their invaluable contribution.

Our collective att[illegible]tion now turns to the process of counting the votes, which we hope will proceed in a manner as orderly and effective as the registration and voting, in an environment of calm and transparency. In this phase as in the previous ones, the parties will have a special responsibility to maintain public tranquillity and ensure that the electoral process moves forward as planned.

Nowhere is calm needed more right now than in Abyei. We deeply regret the clashes that took place in Abyei between 7 and 9 January. We welcome the fact that Abyei communities have worked together to ease tensions. We appreciate the efforts made by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the Sudanese authorities to contain hostilities and avoid escalation.

As we know, resolving the question of Abyei is critical to sustainable peace in the Sudan. Therefore, no effort should be spared to address the issue effectively and definitively as soon as possible. Holding popular consultations in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states is also imperative.

Given the key role played by the United Nations in Sudan, we reiterate our call on all Sudanese parties to fully respect and cooperate with the Organization, in particular its representatives on the ground. In this regard, we condemn in the strongest terms the recent kidnapping of three United Nations Humanitarian Air Service staff members.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Mr. Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and head of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), and Mr. Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, for their briefings.

The referendum in Southern Sudan has been completed smoothly with the joint efforts made by the North, the South and the international community. This is an important step towards the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which China welcomes. China also welcomes the contributions made by such regional organizations as the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union Mission in the Sudan and the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan. We thank them for their efforts, which contributed to the smooth holding of the referendum.

The referendum in Southern Sudan is not an end in itself. The ultimate goal of implementing the CPA remains that of attaining sustainable peace, stability and development in the Sudan. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, it is imperative to ensure long-term peace and stability in the Sudan and the wider region. We hope that the North and the South will continue to engage in dialogue and consultations in order to reach an early agreement on such issues as Abyei, wealth-sharing and border demarcation so as to further promote the North-South peace process.

China donated $500,000 to assist the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in the holding the referendum. We also provided the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau with support in kind and sent a team of observers to the Sudan. We are ready to work with the international community and the parties concerned and to continue to play an active and constructive role in promoting the long-term peace, stability and development of the Sudan.

China supports a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Darfur issue, in particular by addressing the root causes of the conflict. At present, the security situation in Darfur is very fragile and the humanitarian situation is facing a number of difficulties. The root cause is the lack of a strong and widely supported political agreement in Darfur. China therefore calls on the Security Council and the international community to strengthen their support to the political process in Darfur and to urge the rebel groups there to join the peace talks without conditions or delay. We also support the continued efforts of UNMIS to promote the political process in Darfur in accordance with resolution 1935 (2010).

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I would like to join other colleagues in thanking President Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, and Mr. Menkerios, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, for their informative briefings and, more important, for the commendable work they have been doing.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the referendum in Southern Sudan was completed successfully and peacefully over a one-week period. A

very large number of eligible voters are reported to have cast their ballots. By all accounts, the turnover was well above the required threshold. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), as well as other international and regional organizations that partnered with the South Sudanese authorities, deserve our highest appreciation for the conduct of the referendum. That it was conducted peacefully and without violence is all the more remarkable.

The successful conduct of the referendum was an important element in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement reached between the Sudanese parties. The commitment of these parties, expressed at the highest levels, to respecting the outcome of the referendum is equally praiseworthy. We commend this commitment and hope that the same spirit of cooperation and commitment will be shown by the parties to resolve the post-referendum issues that remain to be agreed upon.

While the referendum was held without violence, we witnessed during the course of the week a high and worrying level of violence in the Abyei region, which led to the loss of lives. This is cause for concern. We urge the leaders of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to show restraint and faithfully implement the agreement mediated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We commend Ambassador Menkerios and UNMIS for their role in facilitating this agreement.

The violence witnessed last week in Abyei should remind us of the need to remain vigilant with regard to the situation on the ground, which remains fragile. We hope that the parties will cease their support for proxy forces and seek to resolve all issues through negotiation and dialogue.

The situation in Darfur also remains cause for concern. The problem there requires dialogue with the participation of all groups — not only those armed groups but civil society at large. We therefore urge all parties to return to the negotiating table and reach an agreement expeditiously.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The self-determination referendum in Southern Sudan marks the culmination of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by the Sudanese parties. Russian representatives were involved in monitoring the referendum; according to them, the polling took place in a generally calm and free environment, and no serious breaches of electoral procedures were noted. Given the participation rate of approximately 80 per cent of registered voters, the people were indeed able to express their will freely.

Similar assessments were made by a range of other international observers, including the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel led by Mr. Mkapa. We note the significant work carried out by the United Nations and Special Representative Menkerios in preparation for the voting in the Sudan.

Russia was actively involved in international efforts to ensure the timely and peaceful holding of the referendum. This issue was one of the main topics addressed during a recent telephone conversation between President Medvedev of Russia and President Al-Bashir of the Sudan, as well as during the visit of the Sudanese Foreign Minister to Moscow and the talks with the special representative of the Russian President on the Sudan.

We now await the objective evaluation of the outcome of the referendum. During this time, all Sudanese parties and Sudan's partners must refrain from drawing hasty conclusions and making declarations. We believe that the leaders of both the North and the South will unswervingly uphold their commitments to accepting any result as the expression of the will of the population of the South.

In the coming six-month transition period, there is a need to settle the main points of contention between the Sudanese parties, such as the status of Abyei, border demarcation, the distribution of oil revenues, issues of citizenship and external debt. In this context, we are particularly concerned by the failure to settle the situation in the Abyei border region where armed clashes led to fatalities during the referendum. The parties to the CPA must ensure that there are no clashes during the transition period. There is undoubtedly a need for further active support for the efforts of the parties in this regard.

Thus, the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which is the basis for a settlement in the Sudan, is entering its final phase. The full implementation of the CPA remains crucial to both the governance in the Sudan and to peace and stability in the subregion. Whatever the results of the referendum, a new chapter is beginning in the political development

of this country. We trust that this phase will see the aims of post-conflict recovery and social and economic progress met, and ensure the democratic rights and interests of Sudanese citizens.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios for his outstanding work heading the United Nations Mission in the Sudan. I would also like to thank President Mkapa for his briefing and his assessment of the process.

What has been reported to us here today about the Sudan is good news. The self-determination referendum began on the scheduled date and proceeded under transparent and credible conditions. France commends all participants who made it possible for this important stage of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to take place, beginning with the authorities in Khartoum and Juba, who embarked on a constructive path of partnership rather than confrontation. We also commend the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, which organized the voting under very difficult conditions, and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, which provided logistical and technical support critical to organizing the referendum in the largest country in Africa. Lastly and most importantly, we commend the people of the Sudan, whose peaceful participation, according to the latest reports, far exceeded the 60 per cent quorum required to validate the voting.

The parties, however, still have much to do to by the end of the interim period provided for in the Agreement. First, a solution must be found in Abyei. Like previous speakers, we are concerned by the violence that has occurred there. An agreement appears to have been reached by the parties, but a lasting solution must be outlined regarding the status of the province and the coexistence of the ethnic groups there. Moreover, post-referendum issues left pending must be settled. The future of the relationship between the North and the South depends on a shared understanding of the placement of the border, security matters, citizenship and the sharing of wealth.

Regarding Abyei, as with other post-referendum matters, we support the facilitation work conducted by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel headed by President Mbeki. We encourage the parties to spare no effort and to make the concessions necessary to a lasting peace.

While we welcome the successful conduct of the referendum, we cannot fail to note the deterioration of the situation in Darfur. What is taking place is not a case of sporadic attacks; it is a war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and rebel groups that is also being waged against civilians, sowing death and creating tens of thousands of newly displaced persons. We are also very concerned about the Bulgarian pilots abducted on 13 January.

Given the current instability, what is needed is for the Sudanese Armed Forces and the rebel groups to achieve a genuine ceasefire and sustainable peace. To that end, peace talks must take place between the combatants. The only framework for such negotiations that exists today is the Doha talks, conducted by Joint Chief Mediator Djibrill Bassolé with the support of the Government of Qatar. This framework is open to improvement. New incentives must be found to bring the Sudanese Government and all rebel groups back to the table. We must nurture this tool because it is today the only means of bringing those warring parties together.

We continue to lend our full support to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and strongly condemn the obstacles placed in its way. It must redouble its efforts to protect civilians, as required by its mandate. We believe that progress is possible.

I would like to conclude by saying that there can be no peace without justice in Darfur, in keeping with the implementation of resolution 1593 (2005).

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like at the outset to express my appreciation to Mr. Mkapa for his briefing. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Mr. Menkerios, for his valuable preliminary remarks.

We would like to express our satisfaction with the peaceful and impartial conduct of the referendum in Southern Sudan, which has allowed the people to exercise their right to self-determination in a free and democratic manner. Such impartial and peaceful circumstances are a clear result of the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States. We further recall that the pledge by the Sudanese President to accept the results of the referendum is cause for optimism and a step in the right direction in the post-referendum

period. We stress the importance of the bonds linking the North and the South and of coexistence and cooperation between them, irrespective of the results of the referendum, including cooperation within a new political framework in the service of their mutual interests.

We also stress the importance of following up on such pending matters as the situation in Abyei and post-referendum issues, including citizenship, wealth-sharing, oil and water revenues, debt and others. On the subject of Abyei, we commend the role of Mr. Menkerios and the parties to the CPA, as well as the local leadership, in containing the recent clashes. We call on those parties and local leaders to resume their efforts to reach an agreement on Abyei.

We also welcome the efforts of the State of Qatar to reach a peace agreement in Darfur, in parallel with the new strategy of the Sudanese Government in this matter, and we stress that such an agreement would have positive consequences for the overall situation in the Sudan.

In conclusion, we praise the work of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): This is the first time that Germany is taking the floor in the Council as one of the new non-permanent members. Allow me to express my country's determination to assume the responsibility associated with membership in the Security Council. Germany will contribute to the work of the Security Council in the interest of the United Nations as a whole.

Like others, I would like to express our gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and to President Benjamin Mkapa for their informed and encouraging briefings.

Germany welcomes the peaceful voting during the referendum and joins others in congratulating the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the people of the Sudan. Germany also extends its gratitude to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in Khartoum and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau in Juba. Without their tireless efforts and careful preparations, this success would not have been possible. Germany is also grateful for the invaluable contribution of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan under the leadership of Special Representative Menkerios. We commend all domestic and international monitoring teams that followed the process closely.

My country took part in the observer mission of the European Union, and Germany also supported voter education, continues to support the Southern Sudan Police Service and is engaging in intense political dialogue with the parties. We are happy to have been able to contribute to the success of the referendum process.

All parties in the Sudan now need to continue to cooperate in good faith in the resolution of their differences. Multiple and serious challenges remain. The violence in Abyei during the first days of the referendum demonstrated that a swift and durable solution of the question of Abyei was of the utmost importance. We urge all parties in the area to refrain from using violence and to seek peaceful solutions to their conflicts. We urgently call upon the parties to the CPA to reach an agreement on Abyei as well as on other remaining CPA and post-referendum issues, such as citizenship, the rights of Northerners in the South and of Southerners in the North, wealth sharing, border demarcation and security arrangements. All these issues have the potential to undo the progress realized so far.

We therefore suggest that the Sudan Consultative Forum, under the joint chairmanship of Thabo Mbeki as Head of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan and the United Nations, meet at the earliest convenience to address those questions.

The parties and the Security Council also need to look beyond the CPA and be prepared to act swiftly to address the challenges ahead and prevent future conflict. In any event, the Security Council and the international community will have to continue to extend their support to institution-building in South Sudan.

Furthermore, we must not lose sight of the developments in the Northern part of the Sudan. It is in the interest of regional stability to provide a perspective there, including an economic perspective to master the upcoming challenges. Debt relief, free trade and economic and development cooperation in the North and the South are necessary to open a path towards a peaceful and prosperous future.

The positive news on the referendum must not divert our attention from the situation in Darfur. We are very concerned about the continuing violence in that region and about the displacement of thousands of people. The situation of children in particular should be one of our primary concerns. We call upon all parties to the conflict to fully respect the humanitarian principles, including humanitarian access.

We are especially concerned about the abduction by an unidentified armed group of three Bulgarian members of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service in Darfur. We demand their immediate release.

We also repeat that those responsible for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole committed in Darfur must be brought to justice. In that context, we recall resolution 1593 (2005).

We support the Doha peace talks and call upon all parties to participate in the peace process hosted by the Government of Qatar, as well as to cooperate with Joint African Union-United Nations Mediator Bassolé. We expect all parties to carefully study the proposals elaborated by the mediation in Qatar and we urge all parties to the conflict in Darfur to continue negotiations and to conclude a ceasefire agreement immediately and without preconditions.

We repeat our calls to ensure full and unhindered access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) throughout the mission area. While we support all efforts by UNAMID, particular attention must be paid to the mission's core mandate, namely, the protection of civilians and humanitarian access.

For several years now, the Security Council has assumed responsibility for the situation in the Sudan and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which led to the Southern Sudan referendum. The determination and the unity of the Council have been key to the negotiations and the preparations that preceded the referendum. The parties to the CPA were always able to count on the support of the Council. At the same time, what the Council expected from the parties in the Sudan was very clear. By holding this meeting today, three days after the conclusion of the polling, the Security Council again sends a strong message of concern and responsibility to the parties and people in the Sudan.

The referendum in the Sudan shows what the Council can achieve for the maintenance of international peace and security if it acts in a timely and united manner that includes clear messages. We all know that huge challenges remain for peace and stability in the Sudan. Germany is ready to contribute to the work of the Security Council towards a peaceful and prosperous future for the Sudan.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): My first words must be to congratulate President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, First Vice-President Salva Kiir and others leaders of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for steadfastly steering the tortuous process that led to the recently concluded referendum in Southern Sudan. I should also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, for their comprehensive briefings today.

To say that the referendum represents a significant milestone for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement would be a gross understatement. Regardless of its outcome, the fact that it was conducted without rancor has opened up a new vista for the Sudan, the subregion and Africa as a whole. Nigeria sent a team of observers that joined its counterparts from other countries and organizations, including the United Nations, to witness the conduct of this historic exercise. We are satisfied with the reports, and particularly gratified, that the vote took place in a relatively peaceful, orderly and transparent atmosphere in spite of initial uncertainties and apprehension. By living up to their obligations, the parties to the CPA — the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party — have contributed significantly to this landmark achievement. We therefore commend them, as well as the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, for overcoming the daunting challenges of conducting a credible vote. We also commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for providing the technical and logistical support that greatly facilitated the vote.

In that regard, I want to note the complaint of Mr. Menkerios regarding the freedom of movement of UNMIS, as we often do with regard to that of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). May I also acknowledge that, through the appointment of President Mkapa and his team, the United Nations has enhanced its role in the referendum process.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the critical role that the Security Council has played, not only through its mission to the Sudan but also by remaining united and keeping the subject high on its agenda.

As we await the final result of the voting, we call on the parties not only to remain calm but especially to continue to respect their obligations and refrain from any acts capable of undermining the process. Nigeria is pleased that the parties have unequivocally restated their commitment to accept the outcome of the referendum in good faith. It is our hope that the successful conclusion of the referendum will help to promote very positive post-referendum relations between the North and the South.

Both parties should draw the inspiration to work tirelessly between now and July — the interim period — to complete the key outstanding tasks under the CPA. More especially, they should spare no efforts in reaching workable compromises on the Abyei question, the North-South border, popular consultations in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan and security arrangements between the North and the South. Mutually satisfactory agreement is also required on the issues of citizenship, oil, water resources, assets and liabilities, currency and economic cooperation.

We commend the African Union's High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by President Thabo Mbeki, for facilitating the negotiations towards a framework agreement between the parties. The Panel's role in fostering a stable relationship between the North and the South in the long run cannot be overemphasized. We therefore urge the Panel to intensify its efforts in the interim period.

The Council and the international community should not be lulled into ignoring the enormity of the challenges that still exist in Southern Sudan by the euphoria of the referendum. While attaining independence is an inalienable aspiration, the real business of State-building will become even more acute in the South with rising expectations of economic, political and social transformation. Adequate attention must therefore be given to managing people's great expectations through good governance and the sound management of scarce resources and opportunities. Nigeria recognizes that Southern Sudanese leaders cannot achieve these things acting alone. Now more than ever, the Council and the international community must stand in solidarity with Southern Sudan. Indeed, our solidarity will be put to the test in the type of assistance that we give to Southern Sudan.

More than ever, greater political engagement between the North and the South and increased external assistance and pressure will be required to solve their outstanding issues. The Council's role will be more meaningful if it remains as united, resolute and committed as it has been in the past. We urge the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, neighbouring countries and bilateral partners to also remain engaged. We do hope that the forthcoming high-level meeting on the Sudan on the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa will reinforce the message of peace, solidarity and stability in the Sudan and in the region.

On Darfur, Nigeria remains gravely concerned about the increase in violence and insecurity and condemns in the strongest terms the kidnapping of three members of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. We commend the work of UNAMID under Ibrahim Gambari. We regret that a comprehensive peace agreement has yet to be finalized, despite the concerted and rigorous efforts of Djibrill Bassolé, the Joint Chief Negotiator. We call for the cessation of hostilities and the immediate release of the three members of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. We reiterate our call on the Government of the Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement and other factions to resume the Doha talks without preconditions. We have an obligation to ensure that the Doha process does not lose credibility.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by expressing my personal pleasure and that of Colombia in taking the floor for the first time as a non-permanent member of this Council. We do so in celebration of an historic event, which is the outcome of a process emanating from a peace agreement that will have great repercussions for the people of the Sudan and the continent of Africa. I endorse the thanks expressed to Mssrs. Menkerios and Mkapa for their briefings, which clearly described the evolution of recent events in the Sudan.

Indeed, with the conclusion of the polling process in the Southern Sudan referendum, a major step was taken towards achieving a peace that we hope will be stable and durable and calls for the full implementation of the provisions of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace

Agreement (CPA). Although the process was not free of incident, as many previous speakers have recognized, it is to be noted that the polling took place in a generally peaceful climate and with broad participation. We trust that the ballot count and the posting of final results will be undertaken smoothly and without incidents that would jeopardize the peaceful conclusion of the process.

We congratulate the people of the Sudan, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and electoral observers for their work and the results achieved so far. Independently of the outcome of the referendum, and with the objective of achieving a peaceful and mutually beneficial relationship between the parties, it is essential to find lasting solutions to all pending economic, political and social issues.

To that end, Colombia supports the work undertaken by the African Union High-Level Panel on the Sudan, successfully headed by President Mbeki. We urge the parties to cooperate effectively in seeking concrete outcomes that will make it possible to identify the framework governing relations between North and South upon the conclusion of the interim period provided for in the Peace Agreement.

We should now reflect on the support to be provided by the Security Council to the implementation of post-CPA commitments. We would like to reiterate and share the general opinion of members of the Council regarding the worrisome situation in Abyei. The potential for conflict will persist so long as agreements are not reached on the status and administration of the area. Similarly, we believe that, in line with commitments contained in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states should be held in a free, timely and transparent manner.

Finally, we restate our support for the peace process in Darfur led by the African Union and the United Nations and urge all rebel movements to join this process immediately and unconditionally.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I thank Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, and Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, for their briefings. We are encouraged by the smooth completion of the voting process and the assurances of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that they will respect the result of the Southern Sudan referendum. Furthermore, in the sensitive time following the end of the voting, it is vital that the parties ensure a peaceful and credible conclusion to the referendum process. It is also important to remind all stakeholders that only the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission is authorized to declare the final results of the referendum.

We commend the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan for its efforts to monitor and assess the referendum process. Its presence and that of international observers have been indispensable in ensuring the credibility of the referendum process.

We take positive note of the parties' decision to continue negotiations on outstanding issues after the conclusion of the referendum process. We urge them to redouble their efforts to reach agreement on these issues, including wealth-sharing, the management of assets and debts, citizenship and voter security arrangements, before the end of the interim period in July 2011.

We welcome the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel in facilitating negotiations between the parties. As an important part of the CPA, a solution has to be found with regard to Abyei in the coming period.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is of the view that now is the right time for the international community and the United Nations to anticipate their future engagement in the Sudan. Special attention should be given to economic development and extensive cooperation between the North and the South as a crucial part of long-term stability in the region.

As for the situation in Abyei, we are concerned about the recent violence there. It is important that the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) continue to closely monitor the situation in Abyei and that it remain careful to prevent the deterioration of the security situation there. We welcome the activities of UNMIS designed to increase its presence in Abyei. We also welcome the increased presence of UNMIS at hot spots in order to prevent a possible worsening of the security situation.

With regard to restrictions on UNMIS freedom of movement, we call upon the Sudanese authorities to ensure such freedom of movement. We commend the efforts of UNMIS to boost activities related to its protection mandate. It is of the utmost importance that all parties cooperate fully with UNMIS with respect to the protection of civilians.

We are concerned by the recent upsurge of violence in Darfur. We call upon all parties to cease hostilities and to ensure freedom of movement and access for UNMIS and humanitarian workers to the affected areas and populations in need.

We reiterate our full support for the United Nations- and African Union-led peace process in Doha and the mediation efforts of Joint Chief Mediator Bassolé. It is imperative that all parties seize the opportunity offered by the Doha peace talks, and we urge them to join the process without preconditions or further delay.

Finally, we underline that it is of the utmost importance that the United Nations and the international community continue to deliver humanitarian assistance, monitor the humanitarian situation on the ground, and respond duly to any humanitarian crises that may arise.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to extend my greetings and thanks to Mr. Haile Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa for their briefings on the voting in the referendum in Southern Sudan. They have done a praiseworthy job and are both brilliant sons of Africa. We offer them our appreciation and gratitude.

We listened to their affirmations that the voting process was free, fair and transparent, highlighting the extensive cooperation between the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and reflecting the wisdom and commitment of the Sudanese leadership to its undertakings, which were apparent during voter registration and the voting process itself. We in the Sudan and Africa as a whole can be proud of the fact that we established a model of civility that can be used as a guide to others.

As regards the outcome of the referendum, I should like to emphasize the spirit and letter of the statement made by President of the Republic Omer Hassan Al-Bashir on his visit to Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan. He stressed his full commitment to respecting the outcome of the referendum and went even further in expressing his willingness to offer all possible assistance to Southern Sudan in building its own State in case of secession. I reiterate here in this Chamber the full commitment of the Government of the Sudan to respecting the results of the referendum.

We look forward to enjoying the international community's assistance to both parts of the Sudan if secession should take place. The most important contribution the international community can make to Southern and Northern Sudan alike is to cancel the debts burdening the country and constraining its economic rebirth. In that way, the United Nations can do us a true favour and make a positive, praiseworthy gesture that will promote peacebuilding in the Sudan.

As regards the voting and its outcome, I wish now to share some of my thoughts about Abyei. Many speakers have referred to the clashes that took place in Abyei at the time of the voting, but it is important for me to make clear that these clashes were between members of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka tribes; they were not between the armed forces of the Sudan and members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). That, too, is a demonstration of the wisdom of both parties in respecting their agreements.

There is, however, a lesson to be learned here, and I hope for the Council's undivided attention in describing it. We have often warned of the dangers of clashes between members of the two tribes, and noted that, unless an acceptable, positive and practical solution that accommodates the facts on the ground in Abyei can be found, there will be no peace. If there should be war, it will be started by members of the two tribes, and not by the SPLA or the Government of the North. I therefore commend the calls on both communities, made in every statement I have heard today, to avoid taking any unilateral decision concerning the special situation in Abyei. In that regard, I appeal to the Council to assist the two parties to the Agreement in finding an acceptable solution so as to ensure the sustainability of peace in both the South and the North.

I should also like to share some of my thoughts about Darfur. Before I do, however, I wish to commend and offer my deep gratitude for the efforts of the United Nations, through its mission in Darfur, led by Mr. Alain Le Roy, and of the Secretary-General to promote the peace process and to find a sustainable solution to the situation in Darfur.

I also wish to say frankly that we in the Sudan often hear expressions of concern and denunciation here in the Security Council regarding events in Darfur, but see little action to help the Sudan to find a lasting solution to the conflict there. We look forward to such action. The Council has the ability to persuade the insurgent movements to come to the negotiating table. The Government of the Sudan has affirmed its resolve, interest in and commitment to a stable and sustainable settlement in Darfur through negotiations. Why does the international community delay in prevailing upon those who are reluctant to come to the negotiating table, thereby squandering billions of sorely needed dollars that the United Nations could direct elsewhere? Instead, approximately $3 billion are spent every year on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Greater political effort and more pressure are needed to encourage the insurgent movements to come to the negotiating table under United Nations and African Union auspices. The parties cannot be forced to accept a solution that is not satisfactory to them. We are willing to engage in a process of give and take until an acceptable solution can be arrived at. Merely addressing the symptoms of the conflict in Darfur would be in vain. I know that the Council is sincere in its desire to achieve peace and security throughout the world, and I appeal to it to help us to address the root causes of the conflict.

In this regard, I would like to share with the Council the fact that the Government, in its commitment to addressing the problem, has also adopted a comprehensive strategy for settling the conflict in Darfur. The strategy will be implemented simultaneously with the Doha negotiation forum.

Some may ask what the strategy is, so I will review some of its features. It seeks to include all parties in Darfur in the peace process, especially in the light of the general elections held there, as a result of which provincial parliaments have been constituted in Darfur's three states. It has thus become reasonable and conceivable for the democratically elected parliamentarians to participate in the peace process, particularly since the insurgent factions are numerous and their members do not represent all the people of Darfur. We do not want to rule them out, however, and we do not believe in a policy of rooting them out. By the same token, however, we want the peace process to include all those who were elected democratically, as well as members of armed movements, members of civil society and tribal leaders. The rationale for that is to ensure sustainable peace in Darfur. Peace in the Sudan is integral to peace in the region and in Africa in general.

In conclusion, I would like to inform the Council that we in the Sudan wish to proceed with constructive relations with the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular, as one of its most important organs. We extend our hand to the Council in cooperation, and ask to be judged by our actions. We do not wish to remain a captive of the past.

The President: There are no further speakers on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6469

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6469th meeting

Wednesday, 19 January 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 7 January 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/5)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-20938 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 7 January 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/5)

The President: I should like to invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/15, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Gabon, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2011/5, containing a letter dated 7 January 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by a show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1967 (2011).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.